

problem as what we have out there right now.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Will. Senator Wehrbein, on the Abboud amendment.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Yes, Mr. President, and members, I'm going to rise to support Senator Abboud's amendment, although I will still vote against the bill. And I think it's just an indication of the necessity for something like Senator Abboud's amendment to have in here to show where expanded gambling in Nebraska, be it lotteries or whatever, is going to lead us. This simply recognizes that that is going to happen and I can't recall the figures, off the top of my head, from Iowa. I know Chris has that from the Iowa statutes, but I have read figures of how much increase in problems they've had with people addicted to gambling in Iowa once that started and once it's more available. And I simply think that this makes the case that the more access there is to gambling, no matter what form that it is, it leads to the need for more and expanded forms of gambling on the part of those...on behalf of those that become addicted to it, if that's the proper word. So even though I will support Senator Abboud's bill (sic), thinking it is the recognition of the evil that's going to come from this, it still will not entice me enough to vote for the bill in the end.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Wehrbein. Senator Hefner.

SENATOR HEFNER: Mr. President and members of the body, I support the Abboud amendment. I certainly think that we ought to have something in this bill that would take care of those that are addictive to gambling. I know Senator Will said, well, this type of gambling isn't addictive, but I...I believe any form of gambling is addictive. I know I've talked to some of my colleagues in Iowa on the gambling issues over there and Iowa wasn't too much of a gambling state years ago but now it seems like they've gone overboard on it and it has some of the legislators very worried, very concerned about it. They started out with a lottery, a ticket lottery, and then they got into the U.S. lottery and horse racing, dog racing, and now they have started riverboat gambling and some of them are about ready to throw up their hands and say, where is it going to stop. And they certainly have problems with the gambling problems. And so I would just say to us here, we may not think that this bill will lead to addiction of gambling but I believe it will and so I certainly think that if we're going to have lottery, well, we